

Still a Live Question and a Question of Livelihood

**Do
You
Know
Unedda
Biscuit
?**

If you do not know all this, buy a package NOW and know

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

TRAVELING IN JAPAN

Troop Transportation Causes Discomforts.

TOURISTS VERY SCARCE

**WAR CAUSES VISITORS TO STAY
AWAY FROM ISLAND.**

Curious Spectacle When Train Stops Half an Hour to Let Every

One Take a Bath.

By WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star and
Chicago Record-Herald.
TOKYO, July 15, 1904.
The war has ruined the tourist season

In Japan. There are very few travelers here this season, the great caravans which usually come to spend the spring and summer months and admire the cherry blossoms.

soms and wisteria having been frightened away. The mayors of the seven principal cities, Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki and Nogoya, issued a

Jap Babies Are Wonders.
The baby was a wonder. Japanese babies always are. They are worthy of all the admiration that has been bestowed upon them, and this little youngster, who could not have been more than three or four years old, was as dignified and quiet and accepted the situation as philosophically as the most experienced passenger. When bedtime came his mother took off the foreign sailor hat he had been wearing, and his foreign shoes and stockings, and

watched the rays of the sun creep silently down the surface of the cone, bathing first in a purple light, then in a reddish and in an orange glow. Until at last, just suddenly, the burnished sun, the symbol of Japan, appeared over the corner of a ridge of pines and Fujiyama stood out against a cloudless sky as if it had been carved from marble.

Morning Ablutions.

About 6 o'clock there was a curious spectacle. As the train slowed down at a particular station I noticed that all the native

In the car began to overhaul their kits and take out towels and soap, tooth brushes, hair brushes, combs and other toilet articles, and some of them produced clean kimonos. The moment the train stopped they made a break, not only from our car but from every other, for the large fountain and rows of faucets over a trough which ran along the fence that incloses the platform. And such a scrubbing and splashing you never saw.

The Japanese, as you have often been told, are children of nature. Their rules of conduct, particularly as to bathing and the

exposure of the person, are much broader than ours. You can see more bare skin, masculine and feminine, in Japan in a minute than you can see in Chicago in a month, and Chicago is not noted for its modesty either. It is simply a matter of education and the people of Japan are gradually conforming to the conventional ideas of propriety. There has been a great change that respect since I was here nine years ago. Then it was a common thing for men and women of all ages to bathe together in the open air, stark naked, without the slightest suspicion of shame or impropriety.

The consequence is that the regular trains have been crowded in the most uncomfortable manner. Many passengers have to stand for long distances because there are no seats for them, and the night trains are so crowded that sleep is impossible. Usually even without a sleeping car, a night journey can be made comfortably by rolling up your overcoat for a pillow and stretching out upon one of the long settees which run on both sides of first-class carriages like the seats in our street cars at home. These

They had always done so until the Europeans came and told them that such freedom was immodest and improper. Now, days at the hot springs the pools are divided by a partition. The women bathe on one side and the men on the other as concession to European etiquette, and bathing suits are worn at seaside resorts by order of the police authorities.

They tell of one fine old gentleman down at Kamakura who during his entire life has been in the habit of taking a steam bath every morning in "the altogether" and always walked back and forth from his house to the beach with a distance meas-

ing nothing but a pair of sandals. When the police issued an order that everybody must wear kimonas while bathing, the old gentlemen, being a loyal and law-abiding citizen, accepted the new regulation in good faith and proceeded to obey it literally. A day he left his house in the morning for his bath, wearing nothing but his sandals as usual, he carried a kimono over his arm. When he reached the beach he put it on and wore it as long as he remained in the water. At the end of his bath he took it off, wrung it dry, threw it over his arm and walked solemnly back to his house again.

He went through that performance several mornings, until the chief of police advised him that the garment should be worn on his way to the beach as well as in the water.

Struck by Tidal Wave.

Some years ago a great tidal wave of reform struck of city of Kobe, where for centuries it had been the custom for the ladies and gentlemen of the middle and lower classes to bathe together at the end of their daily labors in a great cement pool that is fed from a group of hot springs.

the neighborhood. There is a roof over the pool, supported by columns—something like a pavilion—and benches covered with blankets are placed around under the trees outside, where the bathers of both sexes remove and leave their clothing and sit and gossip and drink tea after they come from the water. Long rows of cotton towels contributed to the public comfort by the tradesmen of the place, are suspended from clothes lines, each bearing an illuminated advertisement of artistic design. This is a common custom. You will see lines of towels bearing advertisements at all of the

temple fountains and in the public parks. Daily, and many times a day, forty, fifty and even more men, women and children could be found splashing in this at Kobe, as innocent as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, without dreaming that they were guilty of an impropriety until the great moral wave I mentioned arrived at Kobe, and reformers began to agitate the question of modesty as understood in other lands. The officials of Kobe are always progressive, and try to be up to date. Therefore, when it was suggested that, more

to bathe together. In that pool, the municipal authorities took prompt and summing action. They instructed the police to stretch a rope across the center and require that the men folk bathe on one side of it and the women folk on the other. This was a concession to foreign sentiment and still greater concessions have since been made. A partition about four feet high now divides the pool, although there are cracks between the boards an inch or so wide, and plenty of other peekholes. The bamboo curtains have been hung all around under the eaves of the pavilion to hide

The same unconventionality prevailed the washing station on the railroad morning, and the train stopped half hour so that every passenger could have chance to wallow in the cold, clear water. And nearly every one availed himself the privilege. Most of them retained important portions of their garments—both men and women—stripped the waist, and then lifted their kimonos and tucked the skirts into their girdles so that they could bathe their limbs as high as the thighs. Two men, both of them

elderly and old-fashioned, removed their clothing, stood as naked as they were born. In the midst of the crowd upon the platform, and proceeded to take what the French call a "grand bain." Women seemed to notice them, although women of all ages passed to and fro and even sat beside them. And they seemed utterly unconscious of impropriety. It was the common habit to bathe every morning, and they did so wherever an opportunity offered.

The Japanese are the cleanest people in the world. They are always bathing and scrubbing. The *gumais*, or "bathing men," are everywhere.

h-
n-
y,
n-
o-
ins
ins
ne
y.
o-
e-

the servants, for an hour or so, expect to be allowed at least an hour a day for bathing, just as they expect to have time for their meals, but I had not seen or heard before of a railway train stopping for half an hour to give its passengers a chance to take a bath. It seemed to be the regular thing, however. The preparations are evidently permanent. At the station where we stopped there were two fountains with enormous basins, the troughs stretching along the fence for a distance of a hundred feet or more, with not less than fifty faucets for running water.

Five Warships With Yacht Fleet
A dispatch from New London, Conn., last night says: Six score of yachts, 100 in all, which flew the New York Yacht Club pennant, and all bedecked in nautical finery, many-hued signal flags, with five United States warships, all but choked the entrance to the Thames river today, and, except for a few hours of rain, made a marine picnic of great brilliancy. The day was devoted

There was considerable gossip in fleet today regarding the correspondence between his majesty Emperor William and the Herreshoffs over the building of an American schooner for the German emperor. It was said that Emperor William desired to have built a schooner twenty longer than the Inkomar, owned by C

World's Fair Attendance Increases

A dispatch from St. Louis last night says the admissions last week show an increase over the previous six days, which was largest total since the opening of the exposition. The increase last week was 65,

The eleventh annual reunion of the 1st Cavalry Battalion, Virginia Cavalry, "Most Excellent Order of the Purple Heart," was held at Berryville, Va., last day. About 125 survivors of this famous command were present, together with many from other commands. The crowd was estimated at 2,000.